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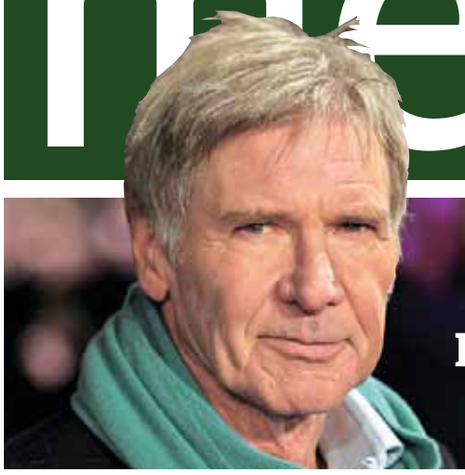

CRASH LANDING

Harrison Ford goes down piloting vintage plane

PAGE 14

TTC Spadina project way over budget

Transit. Subway addition through York University to Vaughan costing 'hundreds of millions' more than expected

The TTC's unfinished Spadina subway extension from Downsview Station through York University and up into Vaughan is about $400 million over budget.

Sources tell Torstar News Service the 8.6-kilometre, six-stop addition — which was originally expected to cost $1.5 billion and later ballooned to $2.5 billion — is now "hundreds of millions" more expensive.

Announced in March 2006, the subway was supposed to open by this fall, but now 2017 appears more likely.

Mayor John Tory's office would not confirm the $400 million, "but the impact of a project of this scope would obviously be significant," said his spokeswoman, Amanda Galbraith.

The final tally will depend on how quickly the TTC and the city want the project done, said TTC board chair Josh Colle.

"How aggressive do we want to be to get this back on track?" he said.

Toronto and York Region would be on the hook for those additional costs. But, given the long-standing extensive issues with the project, it wouldn't be unreasonable for Ottawa and Queen's Park to chip in a commensurate amount, said Colle.

"If it's the will of York Region, Toronto and the TTC to get this in line with the targets that have been set, it's going to cost a lot of money," he said.

Both Colle and Tory say the city may have to consider opening the subway only as far as York University to start. That's where the bulk of the ridership is expected to be initially.

But that's a non-starter for Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca, who represents the riding of Vaughan and has long championed the line.

"We made a contribution of $900 million to the Move Ontario Trust and that was a contribution that was delivered with the expectation that the project would be running all the way to York Region and that's what we anticipate will occur," he said.

He acknowledged the project's challenges, but said, "This is a subway that runs to York University and to my community, so it is disappointing to know that it continues to have its challenges.

"We're all waiting for the official update from the TTC."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MEET TORONTO'S CABBIE QUEEN

Etsehiwot Ejigu holds a special spot among the city's thousands of cabbies. See story, page 7. GILBERT NGABO/METRO

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Forte SX AT shown‡
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Rio4 SX with Navigation shown‡
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1 NEWS

Green P

Pay for parking with city app

People who pay for all kinds of things with their smartphones can now add to that list parking in Toronto's outdoor Green P lots.

The city-owned free app allows drivers to pay for parking at all outdoor Green P lots currently using "pay and display" machines.

The credit-card-based system will be available at all Green P outdoor lots by early 2016, TPA president Lorne Persiko told reporters Thursday at city hall. There are no plans at this point to expand the service to gated Green P indoor lots.

TPA will soon add 20 lots per week to the system, but the app already works for lots at: 13 Isabella St.; 35 Erindale Ave.; 87 Richmond St. E.; 44 Parliament St.; and 271 Front St. E.

Mobile users can find the app at greenp.com, or from a desktop computer mobilepay.greenp.com. They will need to set up an account and provide licence plate and credit-card information. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vaughan

Cyclists want piece of highway

A group of cyclists in Vaughan wants the province to make space along the proposed GTA West highway corridor for two-wheeled commuters.

The Vaughan Bicycle User Group has come up with several recommendations for the Ministry of Transportation to consider as plans are developed for the proposed 400-series highway that will connect Vaughan to Milton.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Honest Ed's project mixing old and new

Development.
Architect embraces opportunity to build new mixed-use site alongside holdout buildings he calls 'talisman of the past'

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

The redevelopment of Honest Ed's is set to transform an entire city block at Bathurst and Bloor. Well, most of the block, anyway.

Sandwiched between the historic department store and Trainers Fitness on Bathurst are two commercial buildings not owned by Westbank, the Vancouver-based developer that bought Mirvish Village in 2013.

"Offers were made to purchase them but the owners had unrealistic expectations, so we decided to go ahead without them," said Gregory Henriquez, the project's principal architect.

The buildings at 756 and 758 Bathurst St. are home to A Leg Up Pet Services and the Alternative Thinking bookstore and café.

The latter property is owned by David Spiro, who runs Willow Books in the Annex. The offer from Westbank was "below market value," he told Metro.

"I didn't really see a clear reason to sell," he said.

"It's a long-term investment for me and I like what's going on there now."

From left, the buildings at 756 and 758 Bathurst St. were not part of the sale of Mirvish Village to Westbank developers in 2013. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

Plans

- Westbank released preliminary plans this week for the redevelopment of Honest Ed's.
- The plans call for a mixed-used development with 1,000 rental units, a public square and amenities ranging from daycare to a bike repair shop.

Far from being annoyed at having to work around the buildings, Henriquez is excited to incorporate them into his plan, the initial version of which was released this week.

"These holdouts actually become historical fragments that are captured in something new. They're a talisman of the past," he said. "I honestly believe the design is better keeping them there."

Henriquez said the buildings' presence actually helped him to plan an east-west laneway that will connect Bathurst to a public square in the middle of the development.

"Every design constraint is an opportunity," the architect said.

Spiro is in favour of the development, but he is worried commercial rents in the area will go up, forcing out some of the more unique businesses.

As proof of his concern, he points across the street to the B-Street condos. Tenants moved in earlier this year, but the ground-level retail spaces remain empty.

"With what they're charging, I don't think they're going to attract local businesses," he said.

"It's going to be wall-to-wall Starbucks."

Construction is expected to start at the end of 2016.

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FACES OF THE STRIKE

‘Spirits are really high’

Stories from the York University and University of Toronto picket lines

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

Onkar Jaswal, chemical engineering, U of T

Jaswal said he hasn’t been too affected by the strike, but it looks like his professors have been.

“The professors, you can tell that they get tired,” he said. “It would be nice to have the TAs.”

Because of the strike he’s had quizzes cancelled and he’s seen the quality of education he’s getting go down a little, he said.

“It’s noticeable,” he said.

Jaswal said he hasn’t heard too much about the issues behind the strike, but one day might be a TA himself.

“If I do my masters, being a TA would be nice,” he said. “Getting to teach others would be really cool.”

If that happens, he’d have the ability to live in the GTA with his parents, which he does now, so he would be less affected by the pay issues than someone who needs to afford a place to live in Toronto, he said.

Olya Murphy, PhD in history, York

Like many PhD students, Murphy would love to be a tenured professor one day, but she isn’t optimistic that it will ever happen.

“Those hopes are probably not going to be fulfilled for us,” she said.

Murphy is a TA and she’s been out on the picket line. “Of course it’s a bit cold, but the sprits are really high. People are showing up in large numbers. We have music, supplies and slogans.”

The issues at stake that she cares the most about personally are graduate student tuition and job security for contract teaching staff.

“We hope that the administration will listen to our demands,” she said.

She said the strikers are willing to go as long as it takes, but she hopes for the sake of the students that the administration will budge soon. “We really believe that what we demand will greatly improve education.”

Kira Scheffelmeier, international relations, U of T

The TAs at U of T do a lot of work, and Scheffelmeier said her tutorial have been extremely valuable and right now, they’re cancelled.

“It isn’t ideal, right before my exams.”

However, Scheffelmeier said she thinks the strike will mean more undergraduate students like her learn about the issues facing TAs. “I hope that they’re able to get better conditions, but at the same time I think the strike is a really big worry for students,” Scheffelmeier said.

For now, things are okay but she worries that if the strike drags on, U of T students will find their exams disrupted or rescheduled, disrupting students’ lives.

“The TAs are striking against the university, but it’s not the university they’re hurting, it’s the students,” she said. “The students they’re bargaining tool.

“At the same time, I guess there’s not really any other way they can bargain.”

History. Strikes are bringing schools together, says expert

York and the University of Toronto have historically had very different relationships with the labour movement.

Labour has always been embedded in the culture at York, said professor Carla Lipsig-Mumme, who teaches labour studies at the school.

Its unions are deeply involved in causes supported by the movement as a whole, academics at the school study and produce work that influences labour efforts and academics often provide pro-bono work for related causes, she said.

The University of Toronto has provided intellectual work that’s been valuable to labour, but the culture at the university is different, Lipsig-Mumme said.

“Given that the full-time faculty has not yet chosen to unionize, I would say that the University of Toronto has not yet developed a culture in which the labour movement plays a large and influential role,” she said.

The strikes are bringing the schools together, Lipsig-Mumme said.

Many students have common fears about the issue that’s central on both picket lines: Precarious employment conditions for contract workers, who are at the bottom of two-tiered work places in and outside of academia.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

Quoted

“Given that the full-time faculty has not yet chosen to unionize, I would say that the University of Toronto has not yet developed a culture in which the labour movement plays a large and influential role.”

Carla Lipsig-Mumme York labour studies professor

Strike 101

University of Toronto:

- More than 6,000 full-time students who work as teaching assistants went on strike Monday.
- Classes continue at U of T.
- There is no date to return to the bargaining table.

York University:

- About 3,700 teaching assistants and contract faculty went on strike Tuesday.
- Classes are cancelled at York.
- Both sides are set to return to the bargaining table on Friday.

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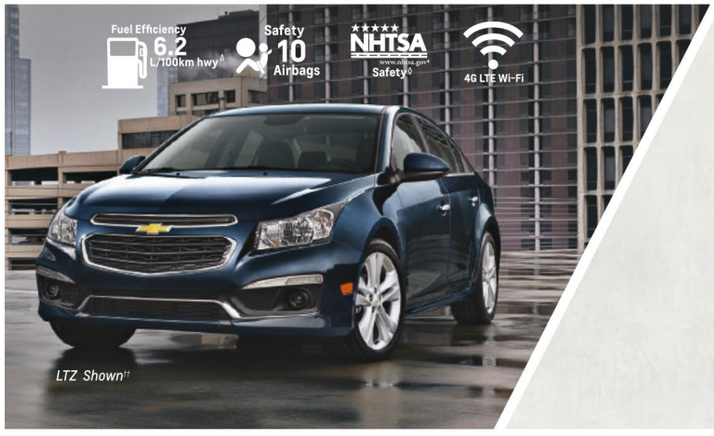

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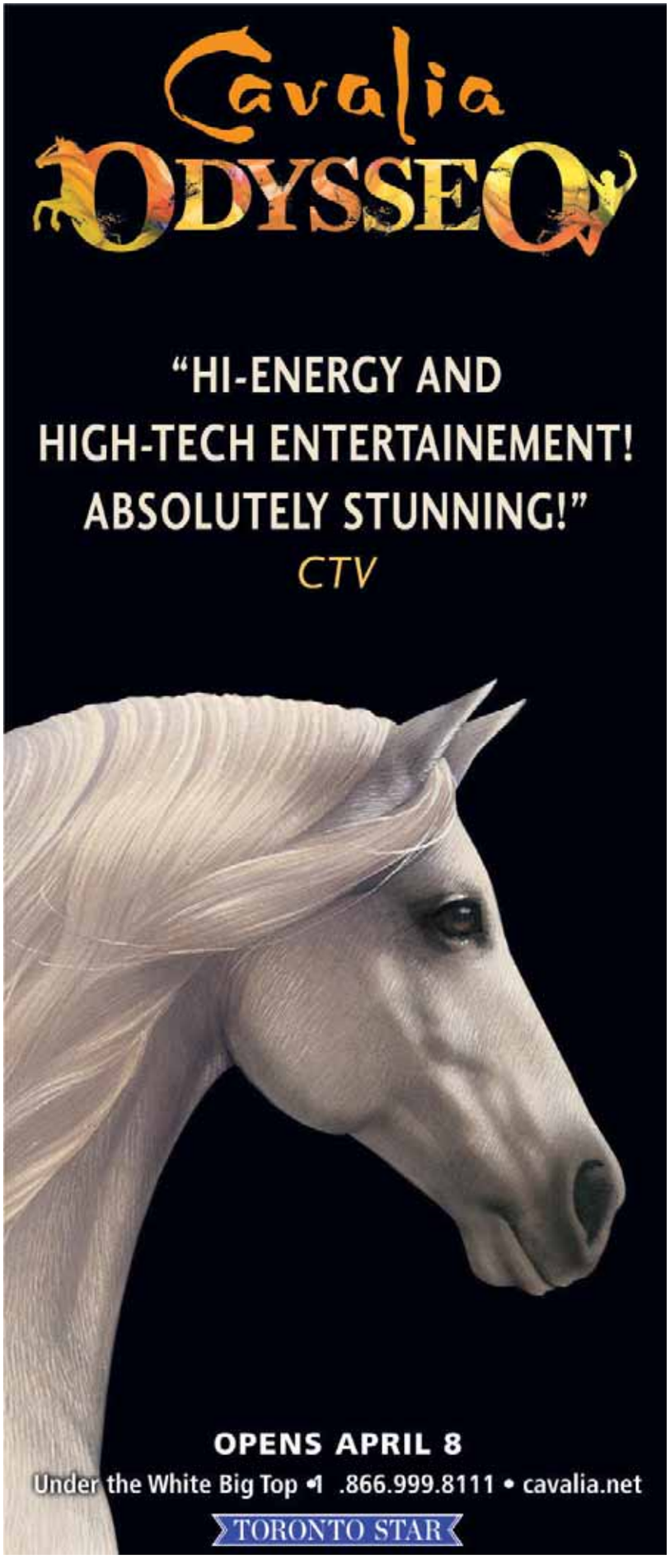

Matthew Hurry is one of the people tweeting back at you from behind the @TTCHelps Twitter account.
DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Toronto's transit tweeters revealed

Customer service. Public transportation provider's @TTCHelps Twitter account run by five people who answer riders' questions

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

Many TTC employees spend their day behind the wheel. Matthew Hurry, however, spends his behind the handle.

Hurry is one of the five voices at @TTCHelps, the transit provider's official customer service Twitter account. His job consists of fending off transit trolls while fielding questions from TTC riders.

"It's a bit of a roller coaster," the 29-year-old said. "You get ups and downs, and it can be really busy, especially when there's a big delay."

Prior to joining the Twitter team, Hurry handled customer service over the phone.

"It's a lot more fast-paced on Twitter," he said. "On the phone, you're dealing with one customer at a time, but on Twitter you can be dealing with 10 or 20 people at once."

And, of course, some of those people are angry.

"It can get pretty bad sometimes," Hurry said. "The f-bomb gets dropped on us on a daily basis. You just have to brush it off."

Fortunately for Hurry, the TTC is actually well-liked on Twitter. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Planning Association found tweets to the TTC were just as likely to contain positive comments as negative ones.

Among major transit operators in North America, only Translink in British Columbia had a higher share of positive tweets.

Hurry believes @TTCHelps' success is due to his team's quick response time and willingness to have fun.

On Wednesday, for example, his colleague replied to someone complimenting the new streetcars and included a #youfancyhuh hashtag (in reference to a Drake song), sparking an amusing back and forth with some Drake fans.

"I think riders want to interact with a human, not a robot," Hurry said. "So we try to have fun."

It's not all f-bombs and Drake jokes, however. Hurry pointed out that Twitter interactions have led to real change at the TTC.

For example, a number of TTC washrooms were retrofitted to include diaper-changing tables after a customer complained to @TTCHelps.

"If that person never tweeted at us, what would have happened?" Hurry said.

Quoted

"Riders want to interact with a human, not a robot."

Matthew Hurry, TTC customer service tweeter.

Transit agencies benefit when they connect with customers online: Study

A study published in the Journal of the American Planning Association found transit agencies that interact with users — as opposed to simply "blasting" announcements — receive more positive mentions on Twitter.

"If agencies want people to talk to them about agency plans, agencies had better be prepared to interact with individuals to discuss their day-to-day concerns. Reciprocity is a part of dialogue," writes the study's author, Lisa Schweitzer.

Of the 10 transit agencies studied, the TTC ranked second in terms of positive mentions. Translink in Vancouver was ranked first, while the Chicago Transit Authority was ranked last.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

‘We all drive with a hand and a foot’

City life. Sociable Ethiopian immigrant is one of few female cab drivers in Toronto

GILBERT NGABO
gilbert.ngabo@metronews.ca

Etsehiwot Ejigu has lived in Toronto for 12 years. Most of those have been spent at the helm of a cab. GILBERT NGABO/METRO

Etsehiwot Ejigu has found a simple way to welcome clients and make them feel comfortable: A smile and a few warm words.

“I can talk,” she says. “I think I actually talk too much sometimes.”

In the past eight years, Ejigu has touched most every corner and street of downtown Toronto in her cab, wheeling people home on snowy days or getting them to appointments on time.

She’s a rarity in her profession. Out of more than 4,000 Beck taxi drivers, Ejigu is one of only seven women, said Kristine Hubbard, the company’s operations manager.

“It’s a male-dominated industry overall, whether through companies or independent cab drivers,” Hubbard said.

Other cab companies in the city underscored the point, saying there’s no specific reason women steer clear of the job.

Ejigu doesn’t understand the disproportion either.

“We all drive with a hand and a foot, you know,” she said. “Maybe they fear stress.”

There’s no doubt the job can be stressful, she admits. Ejigu pays $500 a week to lease a licence plate and can never be sure how much she’ll earn on a given day. “Sometimes it’s $60 or sometimes it’s $700,” she said, adding that good tips, like the $100 she once got from a passenger, can make all the difference in the world.

The job is also about setting standards and knowing your limits, she said.

Ejigu works long days, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. But, she never works overnight.

“In a night shift, I would be scared,” she said. “But day shift, 99.9 per cent I don’t get somebody who’s drunk.”

Ejigu said she’s always had an interest in being behind the wheel, remembering a time when she stole her dad’s car and took it for a spin. But she didn’t set out to make a career out of driving.

Instead, Ejigu would like to work as a mechanical engineer — which she was trained to do in Ethiopia.

“But it would take me many years back in school to work as a mechanic here,” she said.

Plus, she’s “very happy” with what she is doing now.

“Some people now call me instead of me going to look for customers,” Ejigu said. “Even at a bus stop, people jump in to just say ‘hi’ and go back. I love meeting people.”

At a glance

- Co-workers have nicknamed Etsehiwot Ejigu Queen Driver.
- She likes being free and independent and got a butterfly tattooed on her right wrist to prove it.
- She likes bright colours: “Life is stressful. You need something bright always.”

Fundraiser for law students cancelled following backlash

A fundraiser asking University of Toronto law students with paid summer jobs to donate a day of their wages to those in unpaid roles has been cancelled, following backlash over whether the initiative targeted the right pocketbooks.

In an email circulated to the school on Wednesday, the Students’ Law Society acknowledged that “recent controversy” over its #OneDayofPay campaign had “made it impossible for the Pledge Drive to fulfill its purpose of building community or to raise the required funds to achieve its goals.”

The initiative, led by the Students’ Law Society with faculty support, originally aimed to raise money for aspiring lawyers in unpaid positions with social-justice oriented organizations. But the fundraiser prompted some to ask why young people should subsidize salaries rightfully paid by employers.

“They’re sort of suggesting that the people who should fix the problem of unpaid work are students rather than employers that are getting people to work for free and getting the benefit of that work,” said Ella Henry, a third-year law student at the school.

The idea was also panned by U of T Law’s student newspaper, Ultravires, which published an editorial decrying the campaign in light of mounting tuition fees and student debt.

“Under the new regime there is but one solution to every possible problem. Salaries too low? Raise tuition. Articling alternative law practice program underfunded? Bill the students. Students’ employment rights being violated? Ask their classmates to make up the difference,” wrote the paper’s editor-in-chief, David Gruber.

In a subsequent email to the student body, the Students’ Law Society said providing grants for public-interest work would celebrate its value rather than condone unpaid internships, but admitted the project was no longer viable.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fighting words: Language and sexism enter into a new phase

INTERNATIONAL **WOMEN'S** DAY

Equality. Feminists have long debated the issue of sexist language. But with new coinage of mansplaining and manspreading, feminists are fighting back, using words to call out men's bad behaviour.

THANDI FLETCHER
Metro in Vancouver

Putting a name to men's bad behaviour can be empowering for women, says a language and literacy education professor. ISTOCK

Annette Henry is all too familiar with "mansplaining."

A language and literacy education professor at the University of British Columbia, Henry has a PhD and was previously head of her department.

Still, she often experiences situations where men patronizingly explain things to her, under the supposed assumption that she couldn't possibly understand because she's a woman.

"Just the other day a co-worker was explaining teaching to me," Henry said, adding with a laugh: "I mean, I've been teaching for 30 years. It's amazing to me that somebody would think I need a primer on teaching."

The issue of sexist language has been hotly debated within feminist circles since the 1960s, but today women are fighting back in a new way, inventing catchy words to call out sexist behaviour that many may not even be aware of.

"Mansplaining," a portmanteau that combines the words man and explaining, can be traced back to a 2008 article in which writer Rebecca Solnit detailed an experience at a party in which a man patronizingly attempted to tell her about a new book that, unbeknownst to him, she actually had written.

Although Solnit never used the term in her piece, it soon emerged within the feminist lexicon. A plethora of other portmanteaus soon followed, from manspreading to manslamming, manterrupting and bropriating.

The terms highlight a real phenomenon women face on a daily basis, but that many people remain oblivious to, said Henry.

Henry said she doesn't believe men are being intentionally "malicious or mean" when they mansplain or manterrupt a woman.

"I think often men don't realize," she said. "Sometimes, once they're told, they do, but not always. It's hard to undo a lifetime of habits and socialization."

But Janni Aragon, a political science professor at the University of Victoria, is concerned the terms have evolved to become an "attack" on men, which can undermine their effectiveness.

"It's like the shrill feminist," she said. "Now it's, 'Oh, you're just a mansplainer.'"

She hopes the terms spark dialogue on how words are used to label both men and women. For example, when women display leadership qualities they are often labelled "bossy," Aragon said, while a man in the same position will be praised for being "hands-on."

So what does mansplaining mean for the future of feminism?

With the coinage emerging at a time when dozens of women are also breaking their silence, coming forward with claims of sexual assault by high-profile men such as Bill Cosby and Jian Ghomeshi, Henry said it could be a sign we are entering a new phase of the feminist movement.

Putting a name to bad behaviour can be empowering for women, but Henry said there's still a lot of work to do to bring about social change.

"I think it's too early to tell (if it will make a difference) because they're relatively new terms," she said.

Glossary

- **Mansplaining:** A term to describe when a man patronizingly explains something to a woman, under the supposed assumption that she couldn't possibly understand because she's a woman.
- **Manspreading:** The male habit of sitting with legs apart and taking up too much space on a bus or subway.
- **Manslamming:** When a man is unwilling to make way for a woman coming in the opposite direction on a sidewalk, and pummels into her.
- **Manterrupting:** When a man interrupts a woman while she's trying to speak.
- **Bropriating:** When a man takes credit for a woman's idea at a meeting.

The experts' take

YES

"I just love these terms," said University of British Columbia language and literacy education professor Annette Henry. "The fact that women are naming these things and, of course, we're having a good laugh over it, too — I think it's a powerful thing."

Putting a name to behaviours such as mansplaining emboldens women, said Henry.

"Men walk through the world in ways that are so different from women, and we have to work harder just to get some kind of recognition."

Being able to label sexist behaviour opens up debate about how to bring about change, she said.

"The consciousness has evolved," she said. "Women are naming things that have always been a part of our experience."

Although naming these behaviours may be a step in the right direction, Henry said women still face many inequality in many ways that won't be solved overnight.

ANNETTE HENRY
Language and literacy education professor at the University of B.C.

IS THIS A GOOD THING?

NO

"It has a time and a place," said Janni Aragon, a University of Victoria political science professor. "We often need to think about the appropriateness of language."

While she would use the terms in casual conversation with friends, Aragon said they aren't appropriate in all situations — especially the workplace.

"What happens is this becomes part of our daily language use and we forget that we need to have a modicum of maturity and professionalism in the workplace," she said.

Instead of automatically labelling men as "mansplainers" or "manslammers," she suggests using the terms as an opportunity to talk about language and the ways we interact with others.

When someone "mansplains" or speaks to her in a patronizing manner, Aragon said, she will instead comment on it or repeat it back to them.

"What I've found is that usually the person will realize that they've just done something and clarify," she said. "Or they'll apologize."

JANNI ARAGON
University of Victoria political science professor

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ROGERS™

Scientists decry ADHD study at U of T

A University of Toronto study on homeopathic treatment for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is being heavily criticized by scientists who claim it legitimizes a pseudoscience.

Two Nobel laureates are among 90 scientists from universities around the world who have signed an open letter calling the clinical trial into question. "We are curious about why, given the need to investigate natural therapies that may actually have a potential for benefit, and saddled with a scarcity in funding, a Department of Pharmacy is interested in investigating a subject that has been ... found wanting both in evidence and plausibility," reads the letter addressed to Heather Boon, dean of the U of T's Faculty of Pharmacy, who is leading the study.

Homeopathy is an alternative health discipline based on the theory that remedies made of extremely diluted material infected with a particular disease can be used as a treatment. Controversy around the practice at the U of T has made headlines recently.

On Tuesday, the school revealed it was "examining" a health studies course at its Scarborough campus, in response to claims that an instructor there was teaching anti-vaccination theories in her curriculum.

The instructor, Beth Landau-Halpern, is a homeopath and one of the clinicians involved in the ADHD study. As of Wednesday, she had taken down her website, which included posts about avoiding vaccines.

The open letter states that previous studies have shown homeopathy to be no more effective than the placebo effect and claims recruiting children into the study will steer them away from effective treatments. The study is currently in its recruitment phase, which is likely to last a year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dr. Stephen Morris, a U of T professor, spent seven years studying the formation of icicles with a grad student. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Prof creates an icy opus

Science. Hundreds of thousands of images document the process of professor's icicle-growing machine

Stephen Morris calls himself the icicle whisperer.

The University of Toronto professor of physics has spent 10 years studying the icy spikes, growing 237 of them in his lab's special "icicle-growing machine" and collecting reams of data. A week ago, he released his collection of hundreds of thousands of images, videos and icicle-growing data to the public online, in what he calls an Icicle Atlas.

"It sounds crazy but it took a long time to make them all," said Morris, who started growing icicles in 2008 with graduate student Antony Szu-Han Chen. The physical experiments wrapped up in 2012.

The two were interested in icicle morphology — the study of how things get their shape — including pattern formation.

Using their refrigerated icicle-growing box, which included a rotating sharpened wooden point that the dripping water and icicles clung to, the duo varied conditions — including temperature, water flow rate, water purity and air motion generated by fans — to see how icicle formation would change.

Their biggest discovery came when they discovered that even the "tiniest level of impurity," such as salt, was enough to produce ridges or ripples in the icicles, said Morris.

For instance, Toronto tap water created ripples, but distilled water did not, he said.

"That was a complete surprise," said Morris, who added his team is the first to make the discovery.

The team also discovered that icicles grew fastest when conditions were coldest (minus 20 Celsius was the coldest point they studied), when they received air motion from blowing fans and had a low water-drip rate.

As for variations in form, the team found icicles grew "legs" — or multiple tips — when the air was still, meaning fans were turned off, he said. The icicles reached a maximum 65 centimetres in length, constrained by the size of the box. Most were grown when temperature was set to minus 12 C over the course of two to 12 hours. Each icicle's progress was captured in about 1,000 images snapped as the wooden pivot point rotated. The photos are now on display in the Icicle Atlas.

Morris said his work could be used to solve engineering problems such as ice growth on buildings, planes or power lines, though he didn't explore those specific issues in his research. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada in Iraq 'for the longer term': Nicholson

Military. Decision on whether to extend combat mission against ISIL will be made in the next few weeks, foreign affairs minister says

The Harper government is laying the groundwork for what has all the appearances of an extension of Canada's combat mission against the militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

At the end of this week's whirlwind trip to Iraq and other allied countries, Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson dropped strong hints that an extension is in the offing when the current Canadian Forces combat mission expires on April 7. A decision will be made in the next two weeks by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his cabinet, Nicholson said Thursday.

"We're in this for the longer term to make sure that we do what we can to help," he said in a conference call from Amman in neighbouring Jordan.

A senior defence official said Thursday that the next contingent of troops and aircrew are training for deployment to Iraq, if the government does decide to extend the mission.

"The military planners are ready to answer the government's call in whatever shape that might take," said navy Capt. Paul Forget.

Forget was asked whether the military would be able to handle an expansion of the air campaign to Syria, or even eastern Libya, where ISIL has taken hold. Syria "would not be much of a stretch," he said, while underlining the government has not authorized such a move, but Libya would require the establishment of an entirely separate task force.

Nicholson travelled to Baghdad to meet the country's leadership and moved on to northern Iraq's capital of Irbil for meetings with Kurdish leaders. He said the trip would help the government assess whether to extend its six-month military commitment to the coalition fighting ISIL militants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seal takes a stroll in Halifax

Police officers pose with a seal found walking the streets of downtown Halifax early Thursday morning. The youngster, who had been in search of food, was directed home by police, right into the harbour. Around 12:30 a.m., two officers were patrolling an area downtown when a woman flagged them down to help a harbour seal who was hissing under her car. The animal then waddled down the street. Using "gentle persuasion," police wrapped the seal in a blanket and took it back to the harbour, according to a release. COURTESY HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE

Quebec

Police probe white powder at ministers' offices

Envelopes containing white powder were found in the riding offices of the four federal cabinet ministers from Quebec on Thursday.

Analysis of the substance sent to Infrastructure Minister Denis Lebel's office in Roberval revealed it was harmless, said provincial police spokesman Richard Gagne.

There was no immediate word on the substances found in the offices of Christian Paradis, Maxime Bernier and Steven Blaney. Gagne said three people — one each from the offices of Lebel, Paradis and Bernier — were looked at by ambulance officials but that nobody "was indisposed in any way whatsover."

He did not want to comment on certain media reports that the envelopes also contained threatening messages.

Speaking in Roberval later in the day, Lebel confirmed the envelope at his office did contain a note. Asked whether it said "Conservatives, You Will Be Annihilated"— as had been reported by other media — he replied he did not know what was written.

"We won't be intimidated and the office will be open tomorrow (Friday)," Lebel said.

The incident in Roberval, about 250 kilometres north of Quebec City, prompted authorities to quarantine two people as firefighters analyzed the scene, said Richard Cote, head of the region's emergency services.

An envelope containing white powder was later found in the riding office of Paradis, the international development minister, in Thetford Mines, south of Quebec City.

Police said a person who came into contact with the substance was transported to hospital as a precautionary measure. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Premier Wynne to combat sexual violence

Premier Kathleen Wynne speaks Thursday at the University of Ottawa, about women in politics.
FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kathleen Wynne says she's determined to use her influence as Ontario's first female premier to improve the lot of all women — starting with an action plan on sexual violence and harrassment to be unveiled Friday.

The premier says the plan will include a variety of initiatives, including a public education campaign aimed at raising awareness of the problem and challenging societal norms and beliefs.

She says victims must be better supported, ensuring that women who are "brave enough" to come forward with complaints aren't re-victimized.

As well, Wynne says, laws need to be strengthened to keep workplaces and post-secondary campuses free from sexual violence and harrassment.

Above all, she says the plan aims to change deep-rooted attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence against women.

Wynne gave a preview of the action plan, which is meant to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8, during a symposium Thursday on women in politics at the University of Ottawa — an institution that has suffered its own recent scandals involving sexual misconduct.

The university suspended the men's hockey team last year following allegations that two players sexually assaulted a woman while the team was visiting Thunder Bay. The suspension followed the resignation of four student government officials over inappropriate sexual comments about a female colleague on Facebook.

Research suggests one in three Canadian women will face some kind of sexual violence or harrassment in their life, yet most don't report it, she said.

"There is a real danger in silence. If we don't talk about it or we pretend that it's not pervasive or that it's not happening, then we are doing nothing to stop it from happening again and again and again," Wynne told the symposium.

While she described her life as privileged, Wynne frankly talked about how her own path "has been cluttered with barriers."

"Barriers because I'm a woman. Barriers because I'm a lesbian. And as one of my neighbours who was surprised at the fact that I became premier once said to me, barriers because I'm just a mom. He said, 'It's amazing you're there. You're just a mom.'" THE CANADIAN PRESS

No in vitro option till sexual activity sworn: Quebec

Quebec women who want government-financed in vitro fertilization will have to sign a statement saying they have been sexually active for a long period.

Health Minister Gaetan Barrette says his proposed legislation would oblige women to make the declaration in a doctor's office.

The legislation would not have the force of law.

The objective is to allow nature to take its course and to ensure that in vitro treatment is not performed unnecessarily.

In vitro treatments are the complex and costly and often result in multiple births.

Barrette says it's been shown that 95 per cent of couples considered infertile have a child within three years if they keep trying to conceive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Age ranges

Health Minister has proposed guidelines based on various age categories:

- **Women aged 18 to 30** would have to have had frequent sexual relations during two to three years in order to be eligible for in vitro.
- The period for **those between 31 and 35** would be two years, while it would be between one year and 18 months for those **aged 36 to 40.**
- **For women aged 41 and 42,** the limit for the procedure, it would be up to the doctor to determine the required period.

Winnipeg woman pulled over for rolling up the rim

Rolling up the rim while driving won't get you a ticket. METRO WINNIPEG

Driving. Police assumed she was texting, let her go without a ticket thanks to Tim Hortons coffee

A Winnipeg woman says she was pulled over for texting and driving, but instead of a cell phone in her hand, it was actually a Tim Horton's Roll Up the Rim to Win cup.

The woman, who identified herself as Lily, told local radio station Virgin 103 she was driving in Winnipeg Wednesday when she pulled up to a red light.

Using her thumbs, she started rolling up the rim on her coffee cup while she was waiting, she said.

Next thing she knew, she was pulled over.

Lily said the police officer came up to her window to give her a ticket until he saw what was in her hands.

"Well, he saw that it wasn't a phone," she said, "and then he's like, so, let's see if you won.

"He stuck around to see if I won. And I didn't," she laughed.

"He kinda laughed about it," she added. "He was pretty young so I guess he wasn't too upset that I wasted his time, but it was, yeah, pretty funny."

Lily drove away without being ticketed, and said if she had been texting and driving, she would have "for sure" deserved a fine. METRO WINNIPEG

Funny story

"He was pretty young so I guess he wasn't too upset that I wasted his time..."

Lily, a caller to Virgin 103 says she nearly got a ticket for being mistaken for texting while driving.

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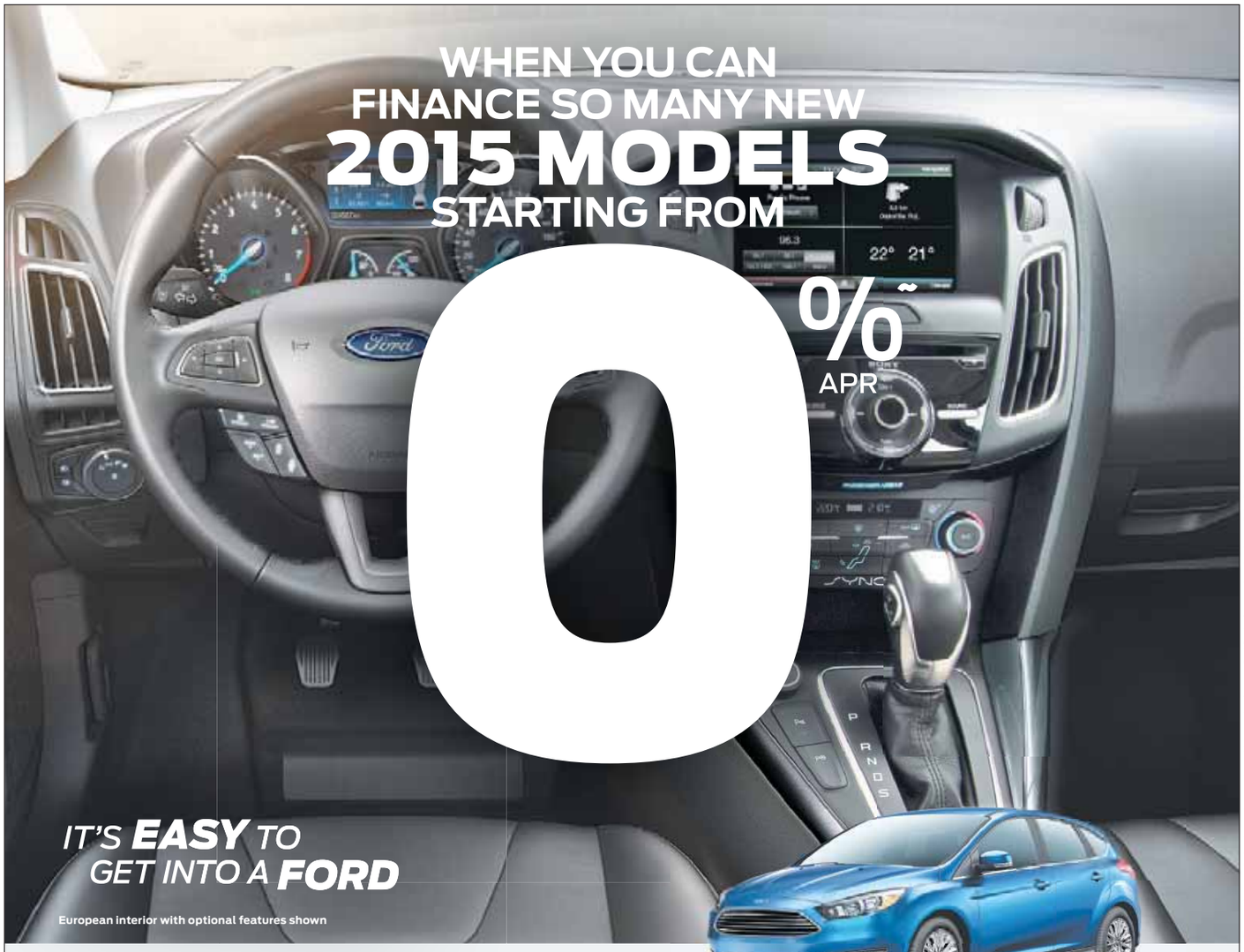

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Harrison Ford stable after crash landing

Los Angeles. No one hurt on golf course where he landed

Harrison Ford crash-landed his vintage airplane at a Los Angeles golf course Thursday, an official said. He suffered moderate injuries and was taken to a hospital.

The actor's single-engine plane went down at about 2:30 p.m. in L.A.'s Venice area, authorities said.

The pilot was breathing and conscious when he was taken to a hospital, where he was listed in fair to moderate condition, Los Angeles fire officials said.

Fire officials would not confirm the pilot's identity.

Engine failure

Harrison Ford reported engine failure shortly after takeoff and told air-traffic controllers he was returning to the airport before crash-landing.

However, an official familiar with the crash said it was Ford. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of privacy restrictions.

The 72-year-old Star Wars and Indiana Jones actor is an aviation enthusiast who often flies out of the Santa Monica Airport. Penmar Golf Course, where the crash happened, is just west of a runway there.

The plane appeared to be a World War II-era vintage training plane. It was mostly intact after the wreck, and Ford was the only person aboard.

Nobody on the ground was hurt. People rushed the scene and started helping Ford.

Jeff Kuprycz was golfing when he saw the plane taking off.

"Immediately you could see the engine started to sputter and just cut out, and he banked sharply to the left," he said. "He ended up crashing around the eighth hole."

Kuprycz said the plane was about 200 feet overhead when it plunged to the ground.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harrison Ford's small plane lies where it crash-landed on Penmar Golf Course in the Venice area of Los Angeles on Thursday. The course is near the Santa Monica Municipal Airport, just west of a runway. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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*[1] Make no payments for 90 days when you purchase finance a new unregistered 2015 Toyota vehicle through Toyota Financial Services Canada. Offer applies on approved credit to retail customers who purchase and take delivery by March 31, 2015. The first monthly payment will be deferred for 60 days (until the 90th day of the contract) and finance contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After 60 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest over the term of the contract.

Racism, money drove Ferguson police: Feds

Investigation. City relied on fines from petty offences to raise revenue, demonstrated mass discrimination

While the federal government declined to prosecute Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, it raised grave concerns about the operation of Ferguson's police department and municipal court.

Though about two-thirds of the city's 21,000 residents are black, only four of 54 commissioned officers are African-American.

That lack of diversity undermines community trust, the Justice Department's report said. It also found Ferguson relies heavily on fines for petty offences, such as jaywalking, to raise revenue.

Holder said the city collected more than $1.3 million in fines and court fees in 2010, but $3 million more is projected for the current fiscal year.

He cited a 2007 case where a woman received two parking tickets costing $152. Because of court fees and other expenses, she has paid $550 so far, spent six days in jail and still owes $541.

Federal investigators found many other examples of discrimination. A lawful protest was broken up with a police warning of "Everybody here's going to jail," and a black man sitting in a car with tinted windows was accused without cause of being a pedophile by an officer who pointed a gun at his head.

Between 2012 and 2014, black drivers were more than twice as likely as others to be searched during routine traffic stops but 26 per cent less likely to be carrying contraband.

Federal officials described Ferguson leaders as co-operative and open to change and said there were already signs of improvement. The city, for example, no longer issues failure-to-appear warrants, has eliminated a fee for towing cars and rescinded warrants for nearly 600 defendants.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Details

Brown's parents file lawsuit

Lawyers for the parents of Michael Brown have announced plans to file a civil lawsuit in their son's death. Attorney Daryl Parks said the City of Ferguson and former officer Darren Wilson will be named in the suit. The comments came at a news conference Thursday in response to the findings from the U.S. Justice Department investigation that cleared Wilson in Brown's death.

No more elephants on parade

Elephants perform at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla., in January. The circus will phase out the show's iconic elephants by 2018, announcing Thursday that growing public concern about how the animals are treated led to the decision. GARY BOGDON/FELD ENTERTAINMENT INC./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles

Second hospital reports patients infected with CRE

A second Los Angeles hospital is reporting that patients have been infected with an antibiotic-resistant "superbug" linked to a type of widely used medical scope.

The latest cases came at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where four patients were infected with the superbug known as CRE, the hospital said Wednesday. Two weeks ago a similar outbreak was reported at Ronald Regan UCLA Medical Center, where seven patients, two of whom later died, were sickened with the bacteria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

East Ukraine

Death toll reaches 33 in mining blast

Officials in separatist rebel-held Donetsk city in east Ukraine say the death toll from an accidental explosion at a coal mine has risen to 33. The blast occurred before dawn Wednesday.

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VOICES

ANTIBIOTICS OR NO, JUNK IS JUNK

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

McDonald's announced this week that over the next two years it will start using antibiotic-free chicken in its restaurants.

While I can't argue that this is a bad thing — it's not — I couldn't help but giggle as I read the article in which I learned the news. In a statement addressing the change, head of McDonald's U.S.A. Mike Andres said, "Our customers want food that they feel great about eating." Ha ha. OK. Well, in that case, why don't you start by losing the name "McDonald's"?

I fully admit that I eat at Mickey D's — I think McNuggets are *delicious* — and, like many of the rest of you, suffer crippling guilt and gas every time I eat there.

But, when I'm weighing the pros and cons of whether to go there, the antibiotic infused chicken is, like, not even something that crosses my mind. I'm thinking about the fried-food issue, the sodium issue and the amount of money the guy behind the counter is making. I think about mass production and the fact that the chicken in my McNuggets is mechanically ground, sent down a conveyor belt, blended with a concoction of other ingredients, and moulded into that familiar nugget shape.

Again, it's good that McDonald's is phasing out the use of antibiotics.

If we consume food that's been treated with the same antibiotics we might need should we suffer from an infection, our bodies get used to them and they become less effective; we become immune to the drugs. So the next time you have strep throat and your doctor prescribes antibiotics, your body won't be confused as to whether this is medicine or a McChicken.

I'm not knocking the announcement, but I'm still laughing at the idea of McDonald's ever being a place I "feel great about eating" at.

In a similar bid to keep or find "healthy-minded" customers, last month, Coca-Cola introduced a new line of beverages in the U.S. called Fairlife — what Coca-Cola calls "premium milk."

To make the dairy-based potion, regular milk is broken down into five parts and then reconstituted into a lower-sugar-higher-protein-lactose-free concoction. While I applaud that effort, has Coca-Cola forgotten that one of the No. 1 nutrition trends of today is to consume fewer processed foods? There is nothing that sounds more unhealthy to me than a Franken-milk produced by Coca-Cola.

Bahahahahaha

I'm not knocking the announcement, but I'm still laughing at the idea of McDonald's ever being a place I 'feel great about eating' at.

Then again, maybe if it were made by Organic Meadow I'd be all over it?

Is this where having an amazingly successful brand starts working against you? McDonald's will always be McDonald's. It will always be associated with junk food. We've all seen Super Size Me. We all know (and if you don't, you should) that a Southwest Crispy Chicken Salad with ranch dressing has more calories than a Big Mac: Even when you try to eat "healthy" there, you still come out needing a prescription for Lipitor.

Do they really think a mom who wants wholesome food for her children will now come barrelling through the McDonald's door, saying, "No antibiotics?! Please, a Bacon Ranch Junior Chicken and a small fry for my boy! And do you have any of that Coca-Cola milk?!"?

It's kind of sad to see these two junk-food giants scramble to keep their customers in a time where being health-conscious is the coolest fad going.

Still, I find that quote from Mike Andres insulting: "Our customers want food that they feel great about eating."

Seriously, man? You're not an organic farmer — you're McDonald's.

Fast-food chains have been making attempts lately to offer more healthy options to their customers. There are more vegetarian options, fewer trans fats and better access to nutrition guides. Executives from dozens of companies have annual meetings to discuss how to reduce salt and sugar in their food. This is all great.

But at the end of the day, fast-food restaurants also need to embrace what they are: proprietors of unhealthy food that customers flock to because we all – every once in a while — crave cheap, quick, greasy and sodium-rich food that tastes great going down, regardless of what it may do to our bodies later.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

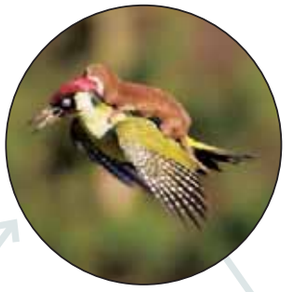
From Vulcan currency to flying weasels, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

EID TO BECOME A SCHOOL HOLIDAY

The New York City public school system is set to observe a pair of Muslim holidays for the first time. School will close for Eid al-Adha in September, and summer school will close next year for Eid al-Fitr in 2016. They are the first Muslim holidays to be recognized by the nation's largest school system.

STOP SPOCKING YOUR FIVES

No, technically it's not illegal, but the Bank of Canada is still imploring Leonard Nimoy fans to stop "Spocking" their five-dollar bills. The trend of doodling on Wilfrid Laurier's face, to make him look like Spock, picked up momentum this week after the famous Star Trek actor passed away.



HITCHING A RIDE

It's one of the coolest nature shots we've seen in a long time. U.K. photographer Martin Le-May captured, on camera, a weasel hitching a ride on the back of a woodpecker. The incredible photo, which shows the weasel clinging to the flying bird, has gone viral.

PINK SHIRT BULLIES

Sometimes irony can be funny; not in this case. A Calgary woman says her son was swarmed, hit and pushed into an icy puddle for wearing a pink shirt to school on Pink Shirt Day — which raises awareness about bullying. The boy's mom says the school has done little to address the incident, while the school described the situation as "complex."

EASTER NOG

If you've ever wondered, "Hey, why doesn't Easter have its own beverage, like Christmas?" then wonder no longer. An Illinois dairy has teamed up with Peeps (those chick-shaped Easter marshmallows) to make Peep-flavoured milk: Chocolate Marshmallow, regular ol' Marshmallow, and something called Easter Egg Nog. Because, you know, Easter needs more sugar!

metro

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SPECIAL CONSTABLES HAVE A MANDATE TO KEEP THE TTC THE SAFER WAY

ANDY BYFORD
CEO
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Keeping you safe and secure while you ride the TTC has always been our top priority.

For that reason, I am pleased to announce that our Transit Enforcement Officers are progressively being awarded Special Constable status, the result of two years of hard work with the Toronto Police Services Board to give our officers greater authority.

Special Constable status means that our officers are able to be much more effective. Previously, Transit Enforcement Officers had to rely on police to deal with even very minor offences. This meant having to wait for a police officer to arrive to deal with incidents such as drunkenness on a vehicle or trespassing on subway tracks – not necessarily a priority for our police colleagues, but very much so for us, given the huge disruption to service caused by such behaviour.

To acquire Special Constable status, each officer must undergo background checks, plus additional training to police officer standards to ensure our Special Constables understand their authority and responsibilities.

The Special Constable team is here to help you – its role is to support other TTC staff in providing excellent customer service. But Special Constables also have a mandate to enforce TTC by-laws – reasonable rules that keep the system safe, secure and pleasant for all to use.

I have set an overall target to cut subway delays by 50 per cent over the next five years. While much of this improvement will come from replacement of worn out track and signals, as well as by better management of service, we must also tackle the hours of delay caused by the behaviour of a few that frustrates and inconveniences riders who just want to get from A to B without delay.

This transition marks another piece in the jigsaw to create a transit system that makes Toronto proud. It also represents delivery of another Customer Charter promise and it comes as we gear up for this summer's Pan Am and Parapan Am Games when system safety and security will be more important than ever.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Name:	Position:	Years of Service:
Courtney Walters	Transit Enforcement Officer/Special Constable	25

As I was able to demonstrate that I was a people person, the TTC hired me in 1989 as an Operator, first with buses, then trolley coaches, and the subway. I then moved on to become a Route and Mobile Supervisor and then Instructor. My well-rounded experience with the TTC led to my current role as a Transit Enforcement Special Constable. This position has proven to be one of the most rewarding and challenging of my career. Ensuring the safety of our customers and employees, and protecting the company's properties and assets while providing a high level of customer service is a commitment I hold in high regard. I have a great appreciation for the opportunities that have been presented to me by both the organization as a whole and by my immediate management team.

Where: Sheppard-Yonge, Upper Platform Eastbound. Artwork: Immersion Land. Artist: Stacey Spiegel 2002

Weekly Customer Service Report

Week ending March 4, 2015

	Actual %	Target %
Subway – Deliver a punctual service	96%	97%
Bus – Deliver reliable headway	63%	65%
Streetcar – Deliver reliable headway	63%	70%

TTC ELEVATOR CLOSURES

Dundas West Station: From Sunday, March 8 to July 2015, the elevator at Dundas West Station will be taken out of service for a scheduled major overhaul that includes the complete replacement of the elevator cab, cab doors, door frames and the hydraulic jack unit. During the construction, the TTC will operate a shuttle bus service between Dundas West and Dufferin stations for customers who need an accessible connection.

Broadview Station: From Sunday, March 8 to April 2015 the eastbound platform elevator at Broadview Station will be out of service nightly (Sunday to Thursday) from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., for concourse level repairs. As an alternate, customers can use the elevator at Pape (next accessible station), travel back to Broadview Station to use the westbound platform elevator to reach street level. Customers can call the TTC's lift-line at 416-539-LIFT (5438) or subscribe to TTC e-alerts for up-to-the-minute information about elevator availability.

SATURDAY LINE 1 CLOSURE – ST GEORGE TO LAWRENCE WEST STATIONS

On Saturday, March 7, there will be no service between St George and Lawrence West stations on Line 1 due to scheduled track work. Frequent shuttle bus service will operate between St George and Lawrence West stations, bypassing Eglinton West station due to work on the Metrolinx Eglinton-Crosstown.

Customers travelling from Eglinton West station must use the 32 Eglinton West bus to reach shuttle buses at the intersection of Eglinton Ave. W. and Bathurst St. The TTC will have Wheel-Trans buses available at Downsview, Eglinton West and St George stations for customers who need them.

During the one-day closure, crews will be replacing 850 metres of track. Lawrence West, Eglinton West, St Clair West, Spadina and St George stations will be open. Glencairn and Dupont stations will be closed. Regular subway service will resume on Sunday, March 8 at 9 a.m.

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From small things, big things come

Analysis. Countless filmmakers have used shorts as inspiration for their big-screen projects

The word 'short' has many meanings.

Pair it with 'pants' and it evokes memories of childhood summers. Match it with the syllables 'and sweet' and it conjures up a pleasant feeling.

But when you partner it with the word film, as in short film, you open up a world of possibilities.

Just ask Tim Burton, Paul Thomas Anderson or Sam Raimi.

Each of them started by making shorts, several of which were later expanded upon to become well known features.

Burton's Frankenweenie first saw life as a Disney short way back in 1984. The Dirk Diggler Story is the 1988 mockumentary short written and directed by Anderson that became the basis for Boogie Nights and Within the Woods was the short calling card that helped Raimi get Evil Dead made.

Short films inspired two of this weekend's big releases.

The Babadook is the feature directorial debut of Australian Jennifer Kent. The horror movie plays up the most terrifying aspect of a primal relationship — the bond between mother and child — coupled with a young boy's fear that a storybook beastie, the titular Babadook, is going to spring from the page and eat them both.

Chappie, opening this weekend, had its beginnings as director Neill Blomkamp's short Tetra Vaal, which asked the question: What would happen if we could build a robot to police developing nations? CONTRIBUTED

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE

The ideas that make The Babadook so unsettling first took shape in a 10-minute short called Monster, which screened at 40 festivals worldwide.

"I had a friend who had a child that she was really having trouble connecting with," Kent told Den of Geek.

"He was little and he kept seeing this monster man everywhere. The only way she could get him to calm down was to get rid of it as if it was real.

"And then I thought, well what if it was actually real? That's how the short idea came about."

Eleven years ago District 9 director Neill Blomkamp's short Tetra Vaal asked the question: "What would happen if we could build a robot to police developing nations?"

The answer may lie in his new feature, this weekend's Chappie.

The South African-born, Vancouver-based director said Chappie is, "basically based on Tetra Vaal," with the spirit of the South African rap-rave group Die Antwoord infused in the story.

The one minute and 20-second short features Blomkamp's signature mix of gritty realism and high-tech, computer-generated images and stars the "ridiculous robot character" with wild rabbit ears — inspired by Briareos from the manga Appleseed — played by Sharlto Copley in the big-screen adaptation.

Blomkamp said he made his shorts as "a collection of work so I could get representation as a commercial director," but they soon opened a world of possibilities for him when they caught Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson's eye.

To paraphrase Dave Edmunds, "from small things, baby, one day big things come."

Richard's ratings

Chappie

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Kidnapping Mr. Heineken

The Babadook

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Now in theatres

Action & Adventure

Chappie

Director. Neill Blomkamp

Stars. Hugh Jackman, Sharlto Copley

In the near future, crime is patrolled by an oppressive mechanized police force. But now, the people are fighting back. When one police droid, Chappie, is stolen and given new programming, he becomes the first robot with the ability to think and feel for himself.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 20% **Audience:** 96%

Drama

The Babadook

Director. Jennifer Kent

Stars. Essie Davis, Noah Wiseman

Six years after the violent death of her husband, Amelia (Essie Davis) is at a loss. She struggles to discipline her "out of control" six-year-old, Samuel (Noah Wiseman), a son she finds impossible to love. Samuel's dreams are plagued by a monster he believes is coming to kill them both.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 97% **Audience:** 75%

Comedy

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Director. John Madden

Stars. Judi Dench, Maggie Smith

Now that The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel is full with its long-term residents, co-managers Muriel Donnelly (Maggie Smith) and Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel) have a dream of expansion, and they've found just the place: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 73% **Audience:** 89%

Drama/Suspense

Kidnapping Mr. Heineken

Director. Daniel Alfredson

Stars. Anthony Hopkins, Jim Sturgess

In 1983, a group of childhood friends pulled off the crime of the century: kidnapping one of the richest men in the world, the heir of the Heineken beer empire (Anthony Hopkins). The shocking capture — at gunpoint in broad daylight on the streets of Amsterdam — resulted in the largest ransom ever paid for a kidnapped individual.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 33% **Audience:** 75%

Mystery & Suspense

The Intruders

Director. Adam Massey

Stars. Miranda Cosgrove, Donal Logue

Every town has its secrets, as college student Rose Halshford (Miranda Cosgrove) learns when she and her dad (Donal Logue) move into a musty, old house. When Rose discovers that the previous tenant mysteriously disappeared, leaving her possessions behind, she suspects her unfriendly neighbours know more than they let on.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 100%

Drama/Comedy

Wild Tales

Director. J.C. Chandor

Stars. Ricardo Darin, Leonardo Sbaraglia

Inequality, injustice and the demands of the world we live in cause stress and depression for many people. Some of them, however, explode. This is a movie about those people. Vulnerable in the face of a reality that shifts and suddenly turns unpredictable, the characters of Wild Tales cross the thin line that divides civilization and barbarism.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 91% **Audience:** 94%

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Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Documentary

1971

Director. Johanna Hamilton

Stars. Peter Gregus, Lauren A. Kennedy

The FBI was unaccountable and untouchable until 1971, when a group of ordinary citizens uncovered its illegal domestic spying programs. On March 8, 1971, The Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI, as they called themselves, broke into a small FBI office in Media, Penn., took all the files, and shared them with the American public.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 94% **Audience:** 85%

Comedy

Unfinished Business

Director. Ken Scott

Stars. Vince Vaughn, Dave Franco

A hard-working small business owner (Vince Vaughn) and his two associates (Tom Wilkinson, Dave Franco) travel to Europe to close the most important deal of their lives. But what began as a routine business trip goes off the rails in every way, including unplanned stops at a massive sex fetish event and a global economic summit.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 33% **Audience:** 75%

Comedy/International

After The Ball

Director. Sean Garrity

Stars. Portia Doubleday, Chris Noth

Kate's dream is to design for couturier houses. Although she is a bright new talent, Kate can't get a job. No one trusts the daughter of Lee Kassell, a retail guru who markets clothes "inspired" by the very designers Kate wants to work for. Reluctantly, Kate joins the family business where she must navigate around her duplicitous stepmother and two wicked stepsisters.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 71%

Drama/Comedy

Focus

Director. John Requa, Glenn Ficarra

Stars. Will Smith, Rodrigo Santoro

A con artist (Will Smith) takes on an inexperienced apprentice in this crime comedy from the filmmaking duo behind Crazy Stupid Love: Glenn Ficarra and John Requa.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 55% **Audience:** 62%

Horror

The Lazarus Effect

Director. David Gelb

Stars. Olivia Wilde, Mark Duplass

The Lazarus Effect follows a group of researchers led by Frank (Mark Duplass) and his fiancée Zoe (Olivia Wilde), who've achieved the unimaginable — bringing the dead back to life. After a successful, yet unsanctioned, trial on a newly deceased animal, the team is ready to unveil their breakthrough to the world.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 13% **Audience:** 30%

Drama

Girlhood

Director. Céline Sciamma

Stars. Karidja Touré, Assa Sylla

Fed up with her abusive family situation, lack of school prospects and the "boys' law" in the neighbourhood, Marieme starts a new life after meeting a group of three free-spirited girls. When her home situation becomes unbearable, Marieme seeks solace in an older man who promises her money and protection.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 90% **Audience:** 66%

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Exposing an all-too-common crime on campus

Documentary. Filmmakers examine controversial handling of sexual assault claims in U.S. schools

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

The makers of The Hunting Ground say they were compelled to create the documentary after hearing the stories of students whose assaults had been disregarded. STILL FROM THE HUNTING GROUND

The Hunting Ground is Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering's second documentary in a row on sexual assault being ignored by institutions.

The Invisible War concerned the military; The Hunting Ground zeroes in on college campuses. They found administrations badly handling, if not outright ignoring, sexual assault charges, leaving survivors to band together to form activist groups. Together, Dick and Ziering have been responsible for several muckraking docs, including Outrage (about closeted Republican politicians) and This Film is Not Yet Rated (about the MPAA).

The Hunting Ground seems like a natural outgrowth of The Invisible War. Was that how it started?

Amy Ziering: In the course of going around campuses showing Invisible War, time and again students would come up to us and say, "This happened to me here. A lot of what you pointed out happening in Invisible War happened right here at Occidental or at Berkeley." We started getting letters that said, "I saw Invisible War. Please make a film about this." After a few months we sat down and said, "We can't not make this film."

What can film do for this issue that, say, a book or an article cannot?

Kirby Dick: First of all, in these cases, you're hearing the survivors' stories. You're seeing them recount them. That's a lot different than reading about it in print. Secondly, a film can just compact everything. It can compact the analysis of a problem with the emotional experience of the survivors into one very intense package that will stay with the viewers.

Kirby Dick CONTRIBUTED

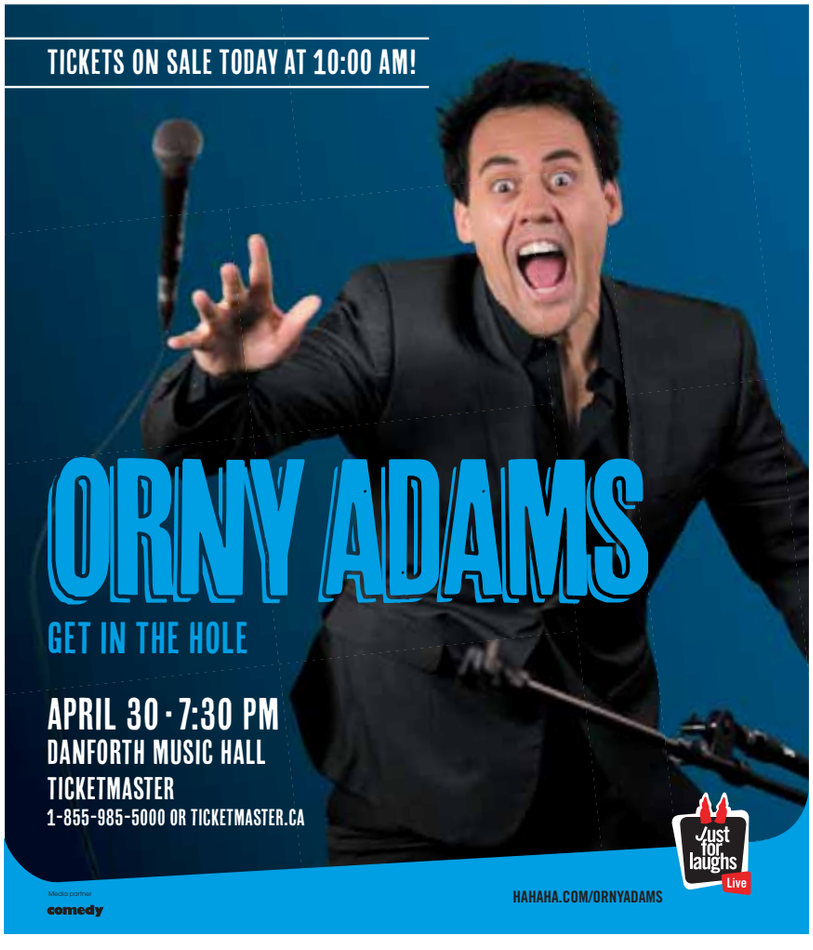
AZ: I also think our culture is so ADD and fragmented — when else do you have someone's attention for 90 minutes? It's one form you can still get people to sit there and percolate on something that allows for them to have a transformative experience.

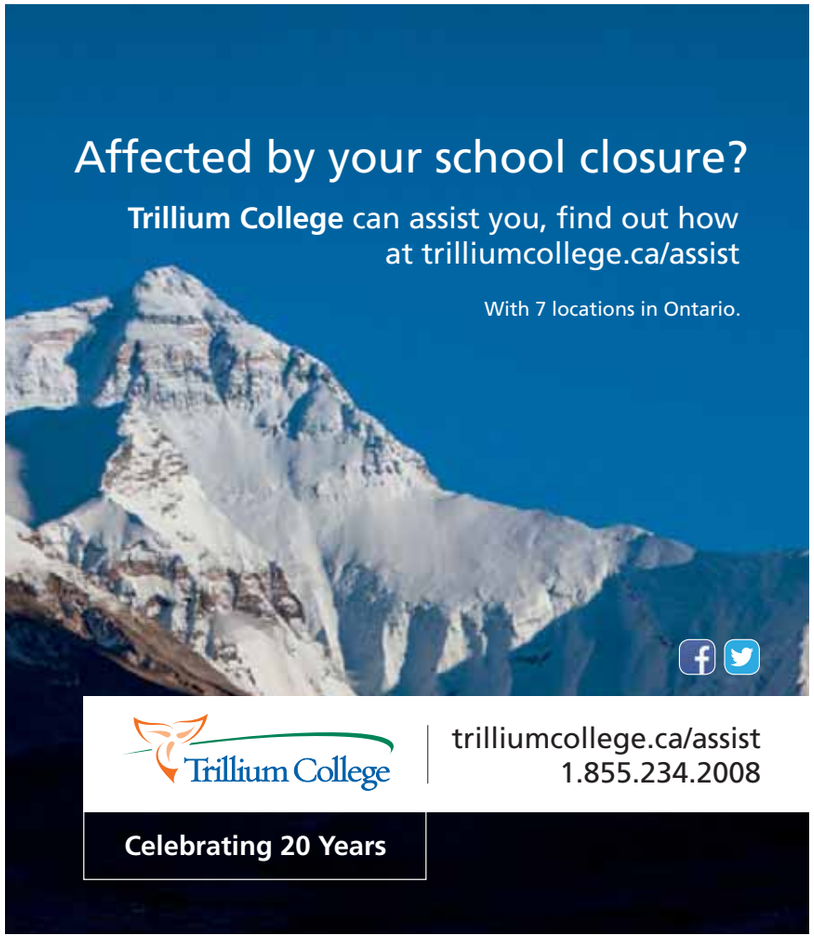
The Hunting Ground is ultimately a hopeful film, as you show that there are survivors forming groups that reach out across the nation.

AZ: I think they felt like there was finally space in our culture to hear about these crimes, where people were not passing judgment on everyone involved with them. I think we're seeing a shift there. I was surprised by the number of people who spoke about it publicly, about what happened to them, and felt it was necessary to do.

What kind of responses have you heard from schools so far?

KB: There's been an incredible response from colleges and universities in terms of programming the film. We already have dozens of screenings scheduled around the country. And we've had dozens of more inquiries. That is a good sign. It's one reason we made the film. We felt there would be a real opportunity to show the film on campuses across the country, and have those schools see the problem, the activists and survivors to start pushing for change and the administrators to understand the nature of the problem and find ways to change it, school by school by school.





Tina Desai is feeling good as Marigold

Movies. Indian actress joins ensemble cast once again in The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Get to know Tina Desai, currently starring in The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, and coming soon to Netflix in the Wachowskis' Sense8.

Performance that inspired you to become an actress:
Shah Rukh Khan's performances. He's just a force in India, and of course I was one of those who was affected by his charms. I became an actor because I realized his films made such an impact on my life.

Perk of fame you're most looking forward to taking advantage of:
Free makeup! I was just offered that by my makeup artist. It doesn't get better. Oh, and when you get to travel a bit more. And you get to stay at Claridge's, which I hear is such a big deal.

First celebrity crush:
Hmm … (Indian film actor) Shah Rukh Khan.

The last thing you Googled:
Let me check and tell you (looks at phone). The weather. The weather in London. I wanted to know whether I would freeze or not at the premiere.

Last book you read:
I'm still reading it. It's Elmore Leonard's Freaky Deaky. It was a gift to me from (English actor) Bill Nighy, actually, because I was reading some other books that he completely trashed and said, "You will not read this!" It was a controversial writer who he felt really strongly about.

The best person to follow on Twitter or Instagram:
Ellen DeGeneres. She's really funny. I love following her. There's also Obama, because I'm interested in politics. And now there's Narendra Modi, our prime minister, who's extremely tech-savvy.

Tina Desai in The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. CONTRIBUTED

What happens after you die:
I don't know myself. There are so many people that say you go to heaven, you go to hell, you come back to earth reincarnated. I don't get any of them. I would prefer that you just die and that's it, nothing happens after. That makes a little bit more sense. You come here, you do your thing and that's it.

Ideal Saturday night:
Oh, I just entered the party phase. I used to be the one who would sit at home and read a book and chat with people over the phone, but I've been given more liberty. I live with my family and I used to have a deadline of 10 o'clock but now it's 2 o'clock, so it's very exciting. I actually can go out and dance. That's probably boring, that's probably what you did when you were 16, but I've only just started.

Dream role:
Two things really excite me, though I have no idea how I'll do them. One is to do something completely fantasy-based, like a Pirates of the Caribbean or a Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings, which is something that's completely based on imagination, so you can do whatever you want. I don't know how strong my imagination is, I might completely muck it up. The other one would be to do a biopic, and then you have no freedom. You have to completely follow that person, look like them, talk like, think like them. Those are both extremely difficult, but I think they would be fun. I really think I might muck it up like hell, but I don't know and it seems challenging.

Role no tiptoe through the Marigolds, Judi Dench says

Acting. The British Dame of filmdom revisits her Best Exotic Marigold Hotel role

This likely won't make any other actors feel too great about their prospects, but even Judi Dench says that finding work is tough. And that's after winning an Oscar, becoming a dame and appearing in seven James Bond films. So what hope does the rest of the acting community have?

"I take what's offered. I don't think it gets easier," Dench offers. "It's the same thing with everybody, I think, that you play something, and very often after that you're sent something that is very, very similar to what you've just done.

While she waits for some enterprising young playwright to craft something more exotic for her, Dench is revisiting some previous work for a sequel to the 2011 surprise hit The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. And while it might sound surprising for a woman who has played some fairly terrifying and challenging roles, aging expat Evelyn proved to be one of her most difficult — because the character is so close to herself, while she prefers to play people as much removed from her as possible.

Judi Dench with Marigold co-star Bill Nighy. CONTRIBUTED

"Four years ago, the one thing that worried me was that I used to be made up and get into my clothes and they'd say, 'OK, you're ready.' And I'd look into the mirror and I'd think, I don't know where this person is because all I see is me looking exactly like me wearing clothes that I would wear," she admits. "We tried lots of things, like dying my hair, but none of it worked. I just looked ridiculous. So I did find that very, very difficult indeed."

The discomfort clearly paid off, though. Dench admits the success of the first Marigold Hotel was something of a surprise, but she has a theory as to why it resonated with audiences so strongly. "I think it was probably the last thing people thought it was going to be," she says. "It was about a lot of people over a certain age who didn't give up, who were all prepared to take on a risk of some kind and had a bit of life left in them — which you know, after a while people don't think you should have."

So, then, how about a third instalment, continuing on the surprise franchise? "Oh, a third one. Wouldn't it be heaven? Wouldn't it be? I'm up for that," she says. And she even has an idea of how the casting department could top the addition of Richard Gere in this film. "Johnny Depp. Especially playing with me," she says, giggling uncontrollably. "What's the magic in Johnny Depp? Sex, of course."

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

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Actor and director Xavier Dolan. RYAN REMIORZ / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Young filmmaker achieves serious success

Film. Dolan's Mommy wins award for highest-grossing French-language film in 2014

Quebec filmmaker Xavier Dolan didn't just have one of the most critically acclaimed Canadian films of the year — it was also one of the most popular.

Mommy, a story about a single mother raising her troubled son, won a Telefilm Canada prize Wednesday for having the highest domestic sales for a French-language Canadian film in 2014.

The film was written and directed by Dolan and made $3.3 million in domestic sales.

Dolan said its success reflects the diversity of Quebec's movie's industry.

He added that while it was important for critics and the international film industry to like his movie, he wanted Mommy to reach a wide audience.

"It's (very) important that the people take the time to see your film," he said. "Otherwise you can't just make movies for mom and dad and a couple of critics. You want people to talk about the film and to bring it home."

Telefilm Canada's prize, called the prix Guichet d'or, is the French-language equivalent of the Golden Box Office Award, which is awarded to the highest-grossing English-language Canadian film. Dolan also received a $40,000 cheque from Telefilm Canada.

He said he was particularly pleased with the award because it confirms an authentic creation can also be a commercial success.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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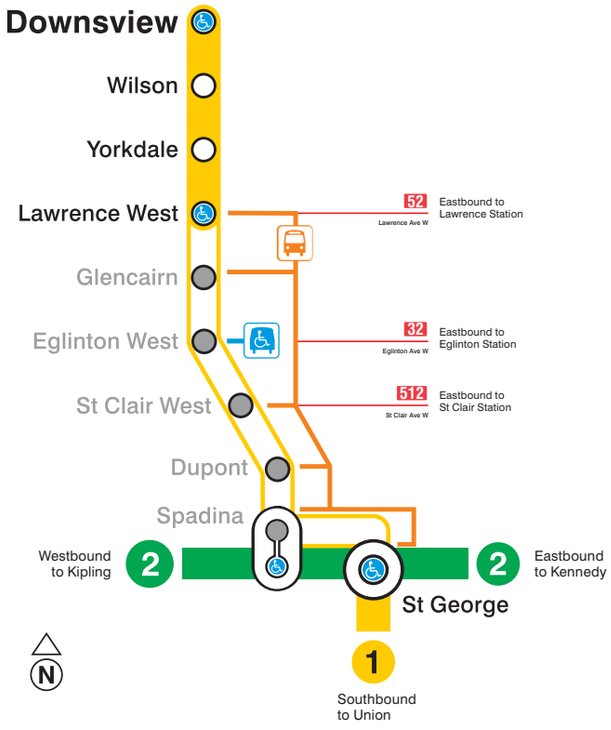

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TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Docs. DiCaprio, Netflix join forces to create green documentaries

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio walking down 6th Avenue during the People's Climate March on September 21, 2014, in New York. AFP PHOTO/TIMOTHY A. CLARY

Hollywood A-lister Leonardo DiCaprio is working with Netflix to produce a series of documentaries with an environmental and conservation focus, the online streaming giant said Wednesday.

The 40-year-old will serve as producer or executive producer on fact-based programs under the partnership deal between Netflix and his production company Appian Way.

DiCaprio and the pioneering streaming service first worked together on Virunga, a documentary set in Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The film was nominated for an Oscar this year.

"Working with Netflix on Virunga has sparked a shared vision about projects that we want to develop and bring to viewers," said DiCaprio, in a statement announcing the plans for programs to premiere exclusively on Netflix.

"There's never been a more critical time for our planet or more of a need for gifted storytellers to help us all make sense of the issues we face."

He added: "Through this partnership with Netflix, I hope to give documentary filmmakers doing urgent and important work the chance to have their films seen immediately by audiences all around the world." AFP

Sci-fi sequel

Young actor to follow in Will Smith's footsteps

Jessie Usher will play the son of Will Smith's character in the sequel to the science-fiction blockbuster, which Roland Emmerich will return to direct. Just after turning 23, the actor has picked up a major role in Independence Day 2, which will also star Liam Hemsworth and Jeff Goldblum.

In the followup to the 1996 film, Jessie Usher will play Dylan Hiller, the son of the alien-fighting pilot Captain Steve Hiller, played by Will Smith two decades ago. AFP

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Tallulah makes dating a bit Moore awkward

You know what's super-awkward when you're trying to carry on a nice, normal, grownup romance? Having your 21-year-old daughter milling around you all the time to kill the mood.

At least, that's what Demi Moore is reportedly discovering since having youngest daughter Tallulah Willis move in with her following Willis's 45-day rehab stint last summer, according to the National Enquirer.

Apparently the living arrangements are getting too cramped for Moore's boyfriend, musician Sean Friday.

"Having Tallulah around the house has almost completely killed the romance between them," a source says.

"Whenever Sean and Demi go out to dinner or a yoga class, Demi invites Tallulah along. She invites her friends over, too, which gives Sean and Demi very little privacy. Sean told Demi if Tallulah doesn't go, he will. But Demi warned Sean that if push comes to shove, he's the one who'll get the boot."

This sounds like it will end well.

Tallulah Willis ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Christina latest to hit a bad note with Voice crew: Source

Man, The Voice sounds like such a pleasant place to work. While Adam Levine and Pharrell Williams are busy feuding with each other, fellow judge Christina Aguilera has been busy driving the production staff crazy.

"She just has ridiculous demands since coming back as a judge, and everyone is wishing she did not return," a source tells Radar Online. "Christina is such a terror to work with. She is frequently late and she doesn't even seem to care or apologize for holding up the filming of the show. To make matters worse, she is constantly fighting with Adam. They cannot stand each other."

You know, I'm no expert, but I'm starting to see a common element in all these Voice backstage strife stories, and it rhymes with Shmadam Shmevine.

Ladies, meet your live-action Gaston

No one's got a swell cleft in his chin like ... Luke Evans? The Welsh Hobbit star — who recently and wisely dropped out of a remake of The Crow — has been tapped by director Bill Condon to play walking embodiment of male vanity Gaston in his live-action Beauty and the Beast opposite the already announced Emma Watson as Belle, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Luke Evans

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Jared Keeso, left, is the star of a new Canadian TV series based on his online series of shorts, Letterkenny Problems, about growing up in rural Ontario. CONTRIBUTED

YouTube star turns rural boy sketches into comedy series

On-demand. Jared Keeso's TV comedy based on online shorts Letterkenny Problems

The crass musings of a country boy named Wayne are leaping from YouTube to CraveTV.

Bell Media says its on-demand streaming service has commissioned its first original Canadian series — a six-part, half-hour comedy called Letterkenny that will star 19-2 actor Jared Keeso.

The show is based on Keeso's Internet venture Letterkenny Problems, a five-part series of shorts that has garnered millions of views. Like the online version, the series will centre on a country boy named Wayne and his life on the farm in Letterkenny, Ont.

"It will be as filthy and crass and unintelligent as it was in the web sketches," Keeso promised Thursday during a break from writing scripts in Toronto.

"We don't want to mess with a good thing there. We want to give the audience something that they're already familiar with."

Keeso, from Listowel, Ont., is billed as creator, executive producer and co-writer. The Trotsky writer-director Jacob Tierney will executive produce, direct and co-write and Keeso says additional advice comes from Goon and Fubar director Michael Dowse. Nathan Dales will co-star as Wayne's sidekick, Daryl.

Letterkenny was commissioned in partnership with The Comedy Network, which will also air the series.

Keeso said creating the series has been fun so far, but he admits it's new territory for him. Best known for playing beat cop Ben Chartier on Bravo's cop drama 19-2, Keeso notes he's never been paid to write before.

"There's pressure there, and there's deadlines, that's something that's new. With YouTube I could always kind of operate on my own time."

Production begins in northern Ontario this summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hicks, skids and hockey players

Keeso, who won a best actor CSA Sunday for role in 19-2, said the stories are drawn from personal experience.

- "This is something that comes from my own hometown, Listowel, Ont. I'll be pulling from a lot of first-hand experience there, growing up in a town where getting your (butt) kicked is a legitimate concern on a day-to-day basis," said Keeso, who divides the community into "hicks," "skids," and "hockey players."
- "We'll explore the different groups in the town, why they don't get along."

Jared Keeso
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canuck writer catches lucky comedy shake

Television. Tim McAuliffe teams up with star Will Forte for new comedy The Last Man on Earth

The Last Man on Earth airs Sundays on Fox. FRANK OCKENFELS/FOX

Tim McAuliffe remembers the very day he began working on The Last Man on Earth, which airs Sundays on Fox.

It was last St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

"There was a small earthquake that morning," the Canadian writer says on the phone from his home in Los Angeles. "They called it the 'Shamrock Shake.'"

The quake seemed like a perfect way to begin crafting a comedy set in a post-apocalyptic world.

McAuliffe joined a writer's room headed by creator, executive producer and star Will Forte (Saturday Night Live). Forte had teamed up with red-hot executive producers Phil Lord and Chris Miller (The Lego Movie) to make a series about a very average guy who — after a deadly virus seemingly wipes out everyone else — finds he's humanity's last hope.

The series opened strongly last Sunday on Fox in the U.S., winning its time slot among younger viewers. Most critics loved it too, with The Hollywood Reporter's Tim Goodman heralding it as "a significant deviation from the safe comedic norm of television."

Originally from Montreal, McAuliffe started his career at MuchMusic in Toronto before earning his comedy chops in Halifax working on This Hour Has 22 Minutes. He followed 22 Minutes with a writing stint on Corner Gas and then worked on both sides of the border. He created Satisfaction for CTV in Toronto and wrote for Jimmy Fallon's Late Night in New York and The Office in L.A.

While writing for the short-lived Will Arnett NBC comedy Up All Night, he hit it off with guest star Forte. When Fox gave Last Man the green light, Forte raided theUp All Night staff, including the Canadian.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sideline

Mr. D star Gerry Dee launches a beer that tastes like cider

Sitcom star and standup comic Gerry Dee is getting his own beer.

The Mr. D lead is partnering with the start-up Alcohol Company to launch Crazy Beard Wild Apple Ale.

The malt-based beverage made with barley hops is flavoured with apple concentrate and is billed as "a beer that tastes like a cider."

Crazy Beard will be available in Ontario.

Dee stars on the CBC-TV sitcom Mr. D as a bumbling high school teacher. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Celebrity roast. Snoop Dogg, Shaq to fry Bieber

Justin Bieber GETTY IMAGES

Rapper Snoop Dogg, former NBA star Shaquille O'Neal and lifestyles guru Martha Stewart are among the celebrities set to skewer Canadian pop star Justin Bieber at his upcoming roast.

The eclectic list of roasters also includes rapper Ludacris, and comedians Hannibal Buress, Chris D'Elia, Natasha Leggero and Jeffrey Ross. Though Bieber wanted fellow Canadian actor Seth Rogan to take part, the comedian's name was not on the list.

Comedy star Kevin Hart will host The Roast of Justin Bieber. It will premiere March 30 on The Comedy Network.

Bieber, who is featured on the latest cover of Men's Health magazine, was this week denying accusations on social media that the topless shoot was photoshopped.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Celebrating mulled wine

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
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If you blinked, you may have missed National Mulled Wine Day on March 3.

In a world happy to acknowledge the existence of everything from beer (April 7) to tequila (July 24) with their own 24 hours, the idea of giving props to a classic winter beverage makes perfect sense to me.

The great thing is mulled wine is so easy to make.

All you need to do is warm up a bottle of fuller-bodied red (or fortified) wine then add a dash or two of liqueur and a handful of spices.

While the Romans were the first to piece together the recipe, almost every European country has its own version, all of which are readily available online.

Don't spend a lot when it comes to choosing a wine. I prefer using a cheaper red from Spain, Portugal or Chile.

San Pedro's 2013 Gato Negro Cabernet Sauvignon ($8.95 - $10.99) is a well-rounded Chilean with enough guts to take the heat and still turn out tasty.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Online

Drink up with Google

Google is adding "live" cocktail recipes to its search results. Data is drawn from a host of sources to offer not only a list of ingredients for many of the world's most popular mixed alcohol-based beverages, but also step-by-step guides. As the results are live, the recipes and methods will change as trends move on.

APF

Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Turn your kitchen into a cooking class

Breakfast. Replace bulky pancakes with these Thin Crepes and get the little ones involved

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

School-aged children are getting a week-long recess this month, leaving parents to plan an action-packed week for the entire family.

While that usually means plenty of outdoor fun, it's wise to have indoor activities in your back pocket should Mother Nature not co-operate. Enter an at-home cooking class featuring a breakfast staple: crepes.

They're easy to make, extra-tasty — especially when doused in a homemade sauce — and a great way to get the kids in the kitchen.

Who knows: You might discover that you have a Ricardo-in-training in your midst.

1. In a bowl, combine the flour, sugar and salt. Add the eggs, 1/2 cup (125 ml) of the milk and the vanilla and whisk until smooth. Gradually add the remaining milk, stirring constantly. Whisk in the melted butter.

2. Preheat a 9-inch (23 cm) non-stick skillet over medium heat. When the skillet is hot, brush it with butter.

3. For each crepe, pour about 3 tbsp of batter in the centre of the skillet. Tilt the skillet to spread the batter evenly until it covers the entire bottom of the skillet. When the edge peels off easily and begins to brown, flip the crepe with a spatula. Continue cooking for about 10 seconds and then remove from the skillet.

4. Place the cooked crepes on a plate as you go. Cover with aluminum foil to keep them from drying out and to keep them warm. Delicious with maple syrup or blueberry sauce.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.

Ingredients

- 1 cup (140 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) milk
- 1/2 tsp (2 1/2 ml) vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp (14 g) unsalted butter, melted
- Softened butter, for cooking

This recipe makes about 14 crepes. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

This recipe makes about 3 cups (750 ml) of sauce. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Topping. Quick and Easy Blueberry Sauce

1. In a saucepan, combine water, sugar and cornstarch with a whisk. Add blueberries. Place the pan on the stove over medium heat and stir with a wooden spoon until sauce simmers.
Let it cook 1 minute.

2. Remove from the heat and then let sauce cool for about 30 minutes. You can keep the sauce in the refrigerator and reheat it in the microwave oven, if needed.

RICARDO

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) water
- 1/4 cup (53 g) sugar, or more to taste
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 4 cups (560 g) frozen blueberries

Giving back and inspiring others

After being diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago and going through nine months of treatment at Sunnybrook Hospital, Katherine Beattie, 50, knew she wanted to help fight the disease.

"I had wonderful treatment and compassionate doctors and nurses, and I wanted to give back. One day, I saw a poster for Relay For Life. I immediately sent an email to my friends and, within 24 hours, I had a team of 16 friends who all wanted to help."

June will mark the fourth year Beattie's friends have rallied around her to raise funds in support of the Canadian Cancer Society's signature fundraiser. This year's Toronto Relay For Life may indeed become the largest of the hundreds of community events held across Canada.

For many, Relay For Life is an opportunity to change lives by going the distance.

Relay dollars help fund hundreds of Canada's best and brightest researchers, who are working tirelessly towards the next cancer breakthrough. Relay For Life also funds vital information services and compassionate support programs for cancer patients and their loved ones. Last year alone, the Canadian Cancer Society helped more than 5,200 cancer patients and their families in the GTA through support services such as rides to cancer treatments and peer support sessions.

"IT'S VERY MOVING — AS YOU WALK, YOU GET TO MEET AND SPEAK TO SO MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED WITH OR LOST SOMEONE TO CANCER."
– KATHERINE BEATTIE

June will mark the fourth year Katherine Beattie's friends have rallied around her to raise funds in support of Relay For Life, the Canadian Cancer Society's signature fundraiser. TIM FRASER PHOTO

"Over three years, my team called We Will Beat This has raised $62,000," Beattie says. "My goal is to be the team captain for 10 years and raise $250,000."

For Beattie, it's about more than just raising funds. "It's very moving — as you walk, you get to meet and speak to so many people who have lived with or lost someone to cancer. Because this year's event will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., we'll finish the evening lighting luminaries to celebrate survivors and honour those who have gone. It's so inspiring."

CONTRIBUTED

Relay For Life will be held June 13, the day after the five-year anniversary of Beattie's final treatment.

"I can't think of a more fitting way to celebrate," she says.

Relay For Life is for participants of any age or fitness level. Accept the baton and be part of this year's Relay For Life. Rally your family, friends and co-workers for the Toronto event on June 13 at Fort York. To learn more and register, visit relayforlifeontario.ca or call 1-866-201-6202.

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NFL

It's official: Manning back for 18th season

If the Denver Broncos' 2015 season goes the way he hopes, Peyton Manning will earn back every penny of the $4-million pay cut he took Thursday. No. 18 made his return for an 18th NFL season official by passing his physical a day after agreeing to a revised contract that calls for him to make $15 million this season.

Peyton Manning
GETTY IMAGES

The new deal he signed after getting a clean bill of health includes incentives of $2 million each for winning the AFC title and the Super Bowl.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Elizondo confirms he's Argos' new receivers coach

Jaime Elizondo is back with the Toronto Argonauts.

Elizondo posted on his Facebook page Thursday that he's working as the CFL club's receivers coach. There was no immediate announcement from the Argos, who currently don't have a receivers coach.

Elizondo served as the Toronto team's offensive co-ordinator/quarterback coach in 2010-11 under former head coach, now general manager, Jim Barker. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

"There are things I want to get healthier, I want to get back to a higher level."

Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry who has sat out the team's last three games. The all-star took some hardcore reps in practice Thursday in his push to get himself back in the lineup — and soon. There was no definitive word after the workout whether or not Lowry would return Friday night against the Charlotte Hornets.

Fiasco could lead to fewer risqué tweets

Social media. Lawyer for Phaneuf, Cuthbert and Lupul got an apology from TSN but wants further justice

Elisha Cuthbert and her hockey-playing husband Dion Phaneuf took legal action this week after TSN ran an inflammatory tweet from a fan in its scrolling ticker during Monday's trade deadline coverage. CHRIS POLK/GETTY IMAGES

An inflammatory tweet that appeared on TSN has served as a reminder that while social media may appear to be a lawless land filled with snark, vitriol and half-truths, it's also subject to the same scrutiny — and libel laws — as newspapers or television.

And, legal experts say, public figures are becoming increasingly savvy about shutting down the online rumour mill. TSN apologized earlier this week after a tweet from a fan about Maple Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf, his wife Elisha Cuthbert and forward Joffrey Lupul ran on a live crawl at the bottom of the screen during Monday's NHL trade deadline show.

The apology followed a legal threat from a lawyer representing Phaneuf, Cuthbert and Lupul. "That's the main goal: you want to just end the story," said the trio's lawyer, Peter Gall. "There's just no truth to it."

Gall threatened legal action this week against the network and the tweeter, Anthony Adragna. The network said the tweet was broadcast despite protocols to prevent inappropriate social media posts from making it to air, though they haven't explained how the offending post made it onto live TV. TSN has said it will no longer air public tweets during live coverage.

Gall said Phaneuf and Cuthbert had grown familiar with "outrageous" false statements being made about them online, but seeing them broadcast on TSN was the final straw.

"You can't sue everybody who says something to you for defamation, but there reaches a point where you just have to do something. That point was reached once it was re-published on TSN," he said.

While TSN already apologized, Gall said, he's hopeful he will also reach a resolution with Adragna's lawyer soon. Adragna did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Twitter, but he has since deleted the post.

Defamation lawyer Peter Downard stressed that the same libel test applies everywhere, even on Twitter. If a reasonable person could consider a statement to be damaging to another's reputation, then it can be the subject of a defamation lawsuit.

Downard said a defamation lawsuit can be successful whether a tweet is seen by 100 people or one million, though he added that the amount of damages awarded would likely be smaller if the audience is smaller. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"People have to understand that when they are publishing on the Internet, through whatever type of Internet communication, they're publishing to the world at large." Defamation lawyer Peter Downard

Maple Leaf James van Riemsdyk looks to shoot against Lightning goalie Ben Bishop on Thursday in Tampa, Fla. CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bolts strike Leafs back into loss column

Ben Bishop made 25 saves and the Tampa Bay Lightning earned a 4-2 victory against the Toronto Maple Leafs on Thursday night.

Nikita Kucherov, Ryan Callahan, Vladislav Namestnikov and Alex Killorn scored for Tampa Bay. Steven Stamkos added two assists.

David Booth and Richard Panik scored for the Leafs.

Tampa Bay has won 14 of its past 16 home games to match a single-season record for home victories with 25.

Toronto has won only once on the road since New Year's Eve. The Leafs broke through Tuesday with a 3-2 triumph against the Florida Panthers, whose top two goaltenders were injured in the game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Once again, hope abounds at TFC

Damien Perquis CONTRIBUTED

Benoit Cheyrou CONTRIBUTED

Jozy Altidore THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLS season preview. With added depth and a dynamic offence, Reds look to crack playoff code and add wins to club chronology

Sebastian Giovinco THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another season, another overhaul for Toronto FC. But this time there seems to be a method to the madness.

Gone are star English striker Jermain Defoe (homesick) and Brazilian forward Gilberto (one designated player too many), along with eight others.

Toronto GM Tim Bezbatchenko and manager Greg Vanney appear to have bought wisely in replacing them, dipping deep into the Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment coffers to assemble one of the costliest rosters in MLS history.

Star midfielder Michael Bradley has been handed the captain's armband and the keys to a franchise desperate for success. Early signs are Toronto has got a serious upgrade in skill, savvy and experience.

Newcomer Sebastian Giovinco, a pint-sized Italian star full of pace, vision and guile, will be the schemer in attack.

Hard-nosed Polish international Damien Perquis joins former skipper Steven Caldwell in a centre-back pairing with edge and experience. French veteran Benoit Cheyrou is a silky smooth midfielder with Champions League pedigree. And U.S. international striker Jozy Altidore looks to resurrect his club career after a disappointing spell with Sunderland.

There is also more depth with the acquisition of defender Eriq Zavaleta and midfielder Marky Delgado, rookie goalie Alex Bono and midfielder Jay Chapman, a talented homegrown player, among others.

"We feel good about the group that we have," said Bradley. "We're improved, there's no two ways about that. But we also understand that that doesn't guarantee us anything."

Toronto will bid to finally make the playoffs in a new-look Eastern Conference, with Sporting Kansas City and the Houston Dynamo moving west to make space for expansion teams Orlando City SC and New York City FC.

Six teams instead of five will make the post-season from each conference, opening the playoff door a little wider.

Toronto will have to survive a brutal opening, however. Renovations to BMO Field mean the team will have to play its first eight games on the road with the home opener not scheduled until May 10.

The flip side is Toronto plays 10 of its last 14 games at home.

Vanney offered a look at his strongest 11 in the final preseason game in Florida.

Joe Bendik started in goal behind a back four of Justin Morrow, Perquis, Caldwell and Warren Creavalle. Bradley and Cheyrou were flanked by Robbie Findley and Canadian Jonathan Osorio with Giovinco behind Altidore in a 4-4-2 with a midfield diamond.

At times, it resembled a 4-3-3 with Giovinco surging up the middle flanked by Altidore and Findley in a three-pronged attack.

Fullbacks Morrow and Creavalle stationed themselves on the touchline, often in advance of their midfielders, leaving room for Cheyrou and Osorio to move in and out.

It's a fluid formation that offers options. And with Giovinco, Findley and Altidore showing off one-touch football and Bradley and Cheyrou pulling the strings, it promises attractive offence.

"It's an exciting group to be a part of. Absolutely," said Altidore.

Vanney says timing is key, with players having to move off each other and read movement.

"I think it's just a glimpse of what's to come as the group starts to get more comfortable with each other and the connections start to really come about," he said.

The formation is not cast in stone, with players adapting to what's on offer.

"We're going to have the ability to be dangerous in a lot of different ways," said Bradley.

Toronto's depth will be tested in July with Bradley, Altidore and Osorio, among others, likely to be lost to the Gold Cup.

With an 11-15-8 record in 2014, TFC missed the playoffs for the eighth straight year since joining the league in 2007. Vanney became the club's ninth manager when Ryan Nelsen was fired in late August with the club at 9-9-6.

They still set franchise records for wins (11) and points (41).

TFC has 18,000 season tickets and hopes to reach 19,000 by opening day. Still the early arrival of Giovinco, who was originally meant to come in July, means the team will be in the red this season despite 8,000 new seats upping stadium capacity to 30,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Form in development

Expecting instant excellence might be a tall order for this version of Toronto FC.

- Toronto finished fifth at the eight-team IMG Suncoast Pro Classic pre-season tournament in Bradenton, Fla., with a 2-2-0 record. They had scored just once going into last Saturday's finale, a 2-1 win over the Costa Rican Under-23 national team.
- TFC's regular season gets underway on Saturday against the Vancouver Whitecaps at BC. Place (6 p.m., TSN 4).

Captain says

"We're going to have the ability to be dangerous in a lot of different ways."

TFC captain Michael Bradley

Coach says

"If we win, the city will be absolutely amazing."

TFC coach Greg Vanney

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Outfielder Anthony Alford played football in university before deciding to focus solely on baseball last fall. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jays prospects hone their skills Down Under

Anthony Alford and Jack Murphy. Budding duo enjoyed developing in the Australian league

A former collegiate football player, Anthony Alford is new to pro baseball. But the Blue Jays prospect has already taken his bat and glove Down Under.

Toronto minor leaguer Jack Murphy, meanwhile, is somewhat of a baseball celebrity in Australia. While both are currently in spring training with the Jays, Alford and Murphy have used the Australian Baseball League to hone their skills playing winter ball for the Canberra Cavalry.

"A great experience," said Alford, a soft-spoken outfielder who spent three months playing in Australia over the winter.

The Jays have sent prospects to Canberra the last four years, with the 26-year-old Murphy enjoying three stints in Australia. "I love the league there," he said. Murphy was named the Calvary's MVP in January. He also picked up the club's Player's Player and Silver Slugger awards.

The 20-year-old Alford played quarterback at the University of Southern Mississippi before transferring to the University of Mississippi to play safety. A third-round Jays pick in 2012, he told the team last fall that he was going to focus on baseball. The timing was perfect for the Australian league.

"I didn't want to just sit around the house. I'd rather be playing somewhere, training," Alford said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I've gotten a hell of a lot better playing in that league."

Blue Jays prospect Jack Murphy, on the Australian Baseball League

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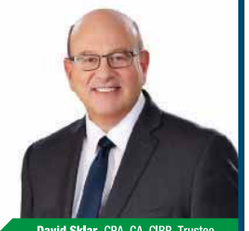

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do something dramatic and decisive today but make sure you know what you are doing because the planets warn you could easily overreach yourself.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If someone gives you a hard time today don't take it to heart. Most likely they need to let off steam and you happen to be the closest target.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you go to extremes today it will cause more problems than it solves, especially on the work front where you would be wise not to change routines you have grown used to.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Do you follow your instincts or your friends? You must answer that today. First, you need to decide what means the most to you: ambition or popularity.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Changes at work will move in your favour over the next few days, so be ready to take advantage of opportunities and don't feel too sorry for colleagues who fall out of favour.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
With the Sun and Pluto linking across favourable areas of your chart today it may seem you can't lose. But Pluto can be deceptive, so it might be wise not to push your luck.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If the only way to get what you want is to reveal something about yourself that you would prefer to keep secret maybe you are on the wrong track.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
With the Sun energizing your ruler Pluto, you are the proverbial irresistible force. However, if you go too far now you may have to pay for it later.

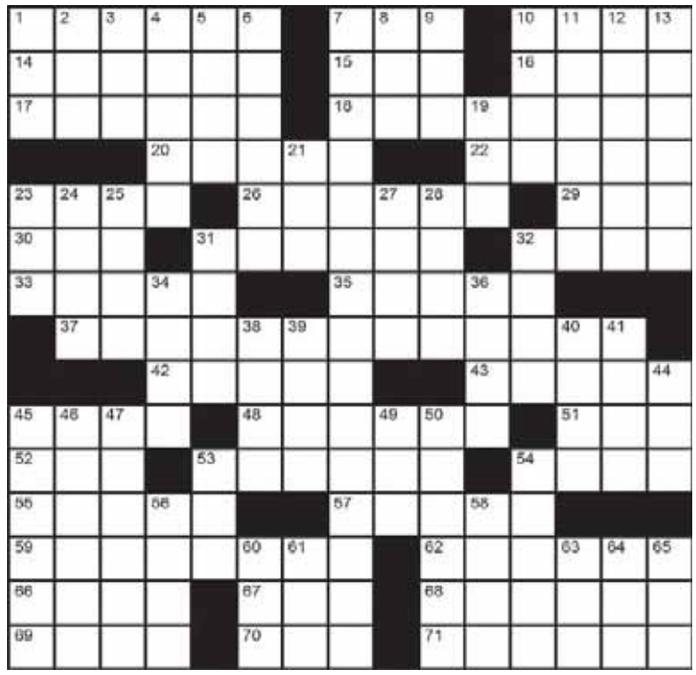
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The thing to keep in mind is that you have nothing to prove. Certain people will try to make you feel like a failure but the only real failures are those who never aim high or take risks.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are in a positive mood and that's good because there is so much that needs to be done. But don't try to do it all in one go because even if you succeed you will exhaust yourself.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You want to do something one way but everyone else wants to do it another way. Just get on and do what you feel is right and most people will come round to your way of thinking.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you want to make changes, now is the time. No matter how laidback a Pisces you happen to be today's Sun-Pluto link will spur you into action.

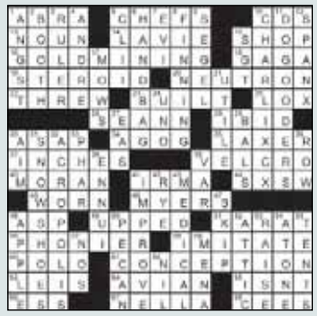
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Niagara Falls: A Poem, in Three __ by James K. Liston
7. __ Jones
10. MC __ Kat, Paula Abdul co-star
14. Green-on-copper
15. Numero __
16. Popular palindrome's parts
17. French for 'not me': 2 wds.
18. Namugenyi 'Nam' __, Canadian journalist who used to be a MuchMusic VJ
20. Bestow with a trait
22. Bubbly treats
23. Climax
26. Sandbanks
29. 'Chlor' completer
30. Camcorder-in-use butt.
31. Alberta hamlet near Red Deer
32. Some supermarkets
33. "Hurray!"
35. __ Mountains, in BC
37. Monopoly's 80th Anniversary! Props for the popular board game's mascot Mr. Monopoly: 4 wds.
42. Insects sci.
43. Burger slice
45. CBS' "The Talk" co-host Julie
48. Prince of Monaco
51. Sister
52. Attila the Who?
53. Celine's "The Prayer" duettist
54. Informality
55. Canadian pollster, Dr. __ Reid
57. Exclusive circle
59. Honoured as a 'Sir'
62. Toronto: Yonge-__ Square
66. Phoned
67. "__ the Dog" (1997)
68. Mythological mountain nymphs
69. Parisian 'souls'
70. "All bets __ off."
71. Dances, concert-pit-style

Down
1. Regime de Pensions du Canada ...what is its English acronym?
2. US motorists org.
3. Pre-daylight times [abbr.]
4. Wristwatch brand
5. "__, __, you noblest English." - Shakespeare
6. "Because I __ __!" (That's why!)
7. Prince William's title: 3 wds.
8. US covert maritime gr.
9. "Super!"
10. Trigonometry ratio
11. Coffee makers company
12. Ontario community between Sarnia and London
13. Joshes
19. Mr. Milne's
21. 1989 'Weird Al' Yankovic flick
23. 'Bound' suffix
24. Bog stuff
25. Repeat
27. Elvis' variant middle name
28. Starring part
31. Saint __, NB
32. "I'd consider __ __ honour..."
34. Candid
36. William Wallace, for one
38. Get _ __ (Sunbathe)
39. Stated
40. Singer Ms. Simone
41. 'Right' suffix
44. Navigator's dir.
45. One of the body's points of spiritual power
46. English actor Charlie
47. Google = Search __
49. 'Velvet' suffix
50. Unsystematic
53. Wood variety
54. Sea eagles, variantly
56. Australian boots
58. Overseas currency
60. Defunct airline
61. Bunny's one-of-two
63. Morse 'T'
64. Fruit drink
65. Stuck keyboard letter between 'A' and 'D'

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		8	5	4	3			
		2					1	
9	3			7				
4								9
3		1				8		2
7								6
				9			7	3
	6					2		
			1	3	6	4		

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	5	9	7	3	2	8	6
3	9	6	1	2	8	5	4	7
8	2	7	4	5	6	3	1	9
7	5	8	2	4	9	6	3	1
2	6	9	3	1	7	4	5	8
1	4	3	8	6	5	9	7	2
9	8	4	6	3	1	7	2	5
5	3	1	7	9	2	8	6	4
6	7	2	5	8	4	1	9	3

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